Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001" has been launched in 50 selected districts of the country.

Various existing labour laws like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE & CS) Act, 1979. The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are applicable to the workers in unorganized sector. These Acts look after the interests of the workers in terms of wages, working hours, social security etc.

The Central Government has enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, which provides for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labours. The Act provides for setting up of Vigilance Committees at district and Sub-Divisional levels to monitor and review the incidence of bonded labour on a regular basis. In-order to assist the State Government in their task of rehabilitation of released bonded labourers, the Central Government has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour under which assistance up to the ceiling limit of Rs. 20,000 is given to each released bonded labourer.

Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Government of India has also been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under the NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work tlirough non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. So far, 100NCLPshavebeensanctionedforcoverageof2.11 lakh children tlirough 3962 centres in 13 child labour endemic states.

Unemployment rates among rural youths

2697. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have surveyed the prevalent unemployment rates among the rural youth of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase employment opportunities in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI L ALL): (a) and (b) Estimates Of employment unemployment and Labour force are obtained from National Sample Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. The last such survey was carried out during 1999-2000 according to which estimates of Statewise unemployment rates in the rural areas were as given in the statement *(See* below).

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth five year plan.

Government is implementing employment generating schemes like the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), the JawaharGram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and the Swamjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) in the States and Union Territories with the objective of providing opportunities of gainful employment in the rural areas thereby benefiting unemployed persons. A Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojna (SGRY) has been launched in September; 2001 which, *inter-alia,* would prov ide wage employment in rural areas.

Statement

State-wise unemploymentrate rate in the rural areas

Sr. No.	State/UT	Unemployment rate* for rural persons(%)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.5

1	2	3
3.	Assam	3.9
4.	Bihar	1.8
5.	Goa	9.3
6.	Gujarat	0.4
7.	Haryana	0.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.1
10.	Kamataka	0.7
11.	Kerala	8.2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.5
13.	Maharashtra	1.4
14.	Manipur	1.9
15.	Meghalaya	0.4
16.	Mizoram	0.9
17.	Nagaland	2.4
18.	Orissa	1.9
19.	Punjab	1.8
20.	Rajasthan	0.4
21.	Sikldm	2.8
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.0
23.	Trip ura	1.2
24.	Ultar Pradesh	0.8
25.	West Bengal	2.8
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.4
27.	Chandigarh	0.7
28.	D&N.Havcli	1.0
29.	Daman & Diu	1.0
30.	Delhi	4.7
31.	Lakshadweep	19.4
32.	Pondicherry	4.0
	All India	1.5

*Usually unemployed excluding the subsidiary status workers.